From: Morning Consult
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Subject: Morning Consult Tech: Week in Review & What"s Ahead
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By Sam Sabin

Week in Review

Tech lobbying and industry

- Kevin Martin, Facebook Inc.'s policy chief, said Chief Executive Mark Zuckerberg is expected to head to Washington to discuss with lawmakers the regulations he proposed in a recent Washington Post op-ed. Zuckerberg wrote in the op-ed that global regulators need to take a "more active role" in implementing internet regulations, saying that the United States and other countries should adopt European-style privacy regulations and that clearer rules overseeing "harmful content, election integrity, privacy and data portability" are needed worldwide.

- Amazon.com Inc. has quietly removed some of the promotional spots it

reserved on its platform to advertise its own private label products, such as at the top of the search results or next to a "buy box" on a competitor's product page, according to multiple Amazon sellers and consultants. The change follows a call from Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Warren to break up big tech companies and to not allow a company to sell its products on its own platform.

- In a publicly released letter, at least 25 prominent researchers called on Amazon to halt sales of its facial recognition technology to law enforcement agencies because of its reported biases against women and people of color. The group of researchers, which includes experts from Google, Facebook and Microsoft Corp., argued the technology cannot be properly used without regulation.

Wireless and telecommunications

- The House Energy & Commerce Committee passed its net neutrality bill in a 30-22 vote along party lines, advancing the measure to a floor vote expected this week. The bill, which faces long odds in the Republican-held Senate, would reinstate the Federal Communications Commission's regulations that would require internet service providers to treat all content and traffic equally and prevent throttling.

- The Massachusetts Institute of Technology said it has severed ties with Huawei Technologies Co. and ZTE Corp., saying it will no longer accept or renew existing engagements with them because the U.S. government is investigating possible sanction violations by the Chinese companies. In an open letter, Maria Zuber, MIT's vice president for research, said the institute will also give extra scrutiny to collaborations with China, Russia and Saudi Arabia.

- The Senate Commerce Committee passed the bipartisan-backed TRACED Act, which would give more power to the government to fine certain robocallers and prod telecommunications companies to improve their call verification tech. The bill specifically targets robocallers who disguise themselves using phone numbers that are similar to those who they are calling.

- Amazon confirmed it is planning to enter the broadband space through a new project called Project Kuiper, which would deploy 3,236 satellites into

low Earth orbit according to three sets of filings with the International Telecommunications Union by the FCC last month. Amazon is likely to spend billions of dollars on the project and faces competition from SpaceX, OneWeb Systems Inc. and others.

Tech culture

- Google is disbanding its artificial intelligence ethics board after a little more than one week following protests from company employees over the appointment of two members: Heritage Foundation President Kay Cole James, for her comments on trans rights and the think tank's climate change skepticism, and a CEO of a drone maker, Dyan Gibbens, whose inclusion raised questions about Google's work with the military.

- Microsoft's CEO Satya Nadella, human resources chief Kathleen Hogan and senior engineering leader Rajesh Jha promised to focus more on diversity and harassment issues at the company's monthly employee meetings from now on, according to a person familiar with the matter, after female employees took to a 90-page internal email thread to share their experiences with sexual misconduct and discrimination inside the company. Women said they were subject to sexist comments during work trips and were told to sit on a coworker's lap in front of a human resources leader, and they also complained of lower pay and lack of promotions for female employees.

- More than 20 former and current YouTube employees say that there is a disconnect between employees' concerns about the amount of false and inflammatory content found on the video streaming platform and the emphasis placed by Chief Executive Susan Wojcicki and her deputies on engagement. One former employee, who asked not to be identified because of a fear of retaliation, said Wojcicki viewed her job as running the company, rather than handling content issues, but a YouTube spokeswoman said the company has spent the last two years looking for ways to deal with the content problems.

New tech bills

- Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts introduced The Corporate Executive Accountability Act, which would broaden some corporate executives' criminal liability when Americans' personal data is breached. Warren wrote about the legislation in a

Washington Post op-ed this morning, saying "personal accountability is the only way" to make sure executives "think twice before ignoring the law."

- Massachusetts Sen. Ed Markey (D) outlined a new bill that would extend existing children's privacy laws to online platforms, such as YouTube and Facebook, and curtail "commercialization and marketing that manipulate kids and push them into a consumer culture," at a conference hosted by kids' media activist Common Sense Media today. Markey's office said he is still finalizing the text as he seeks co-sponsors; however, the main targets of the bill will be Facebook and Google, which both dominate the online ad market.

Cybersecurity and data

- Researchers at cybersecurity firm UpGuard found large amounts of Facebook user information inadvertently posted publicly on Amazon's cloud computing servers as a result of the company's years-long practice of sharing this kind of information with third-party developers before a recent crackdown. A Facebook spokesperson said the company is working with Amazon to remove the 100,000 open databases, noting the company's policies prohibit storing such information in a public location.

- A woman from China carrying a thumb drive infected with malware gained access to Mar-a-Lago during President Donald Trump's visit to the Florida resort last weekend, according to federal court records. The woman, Yujing Zhang, told Secret Service agents that a Chinese friend told her to travel to Palm Beach, Fla., to attend a U.N. event that didn't exist in the club's schedule, and she was later arrested for lying to a federal agent and gaining access to a restricted area.

- A group of former hackers for United States intelligence agencies reportedly helped the United Arab Emirates spy on a group of Arab media personalities, including a BBC host and the chairman of Al Jazeera, in 2017 during the UAE's conflict with Qatar. The former U.S. operatives were a part of Project Raven, a secret Emirati intelligence program that spied on opponents of the UAE monarchy, according to a news investigation.

- The Democratic National Committee said it is scrapping its current data operation, Vertica, in favor for a new, cloud-based system being called the Data Warehouse, which will rely on Google's analytics tool BigQuery. The

Democrats are also working on a new exchange to allow data sharing between the party and outside political groups while abiding by the Federal Election Commission's ban on coordination between campaigns and outside groups.

- The Central Intelligence Agency is looking at awarding a contract worth "tens of billions" of dollars to more than one cloud provider by 2021 in an effort to establish a cloud computing infrastructure, according to a review of documents, building upon a similar $600 million contract award to Amazon in 2013. The new effort, called the C2E Commercial Cloud Enterprise, is running parallel to a $10 billion contract procurement process at the Defense Department.

What's Ahead

- The House and Senate are in session.
- The House is expected to vote on the Democrat-backed net neutrality bill this week; however, it faces an uphill battle in the Republican-held Senate.
- The Federal Trade Commission will hold two days of hearings on the agency's role in consumer privacy matters on Tuesday and Wednesday.
- The FCC's next open commission meeting will take place on Friday. Agenda items include the 5G incentive auction, 37 GHz & 50 GHz spectrum band rules and fixed wireless infrastructure rules.

Events Calendar (All Times Local)

04/05/2019

International Privacy + Security Forum

04/06/2019

NAB Show

04/07/2019

NAB Show

Forbes' 2019 CIO Summit

04/08/2019

Forbes' 2019 CIO Summit

NAB Show

Broadband Communities Summit

House Rules Committee picks up net neutrality bill	5:00 pm

04/09/2019

Google Cloud Next

NAB Show

Broadband Communities Summit

FTC hearings on competition and consumer protection	9:00 am
House Judiciary Committee hearing on hate crimes, white nationalism and social media	10:00 am
House Science Committee's hearing on the National Institute of Standards and Technology's budget	10:00 am
Technology Policy Institute on costs, benefits of banning Huawei	2:00 pm

04/10/2019

Google Cloud Next

NAB Show

Broadband Communities Summit

FTC hearings on competition and consumer protection	9:00 am
FCC Disability Advisory Committee Meeting	9:00 am
Senate Commerce Committee hearing on broadband mapping	10:00 am
Senate Judiciary Constitution subcommittee hearing on tech censorship and free speech	2:30 pm

04/11/2019

Google Cloud Next	
NAB Show	
Broadband Communities Summit	
Senate Armed Services hearing on the establishment of the U.S. Space Force	9:30 am
Senate Commerce communications subcommittee hearing on illegal robocalls	10:00 am
New America's "Tech for the Safety Net: A Conversation with Rey Faustino and Nicolas Colin" event	12:00 pm

04/12/2019

Brookings Institution event on emerging technologies and workplaces	10:00 am
FCC Open Commission Meeting	10:30 am

View full calendar

The Brands That Define American Culture and Commerce

Morning Consult analyzed over 400,000 survey interviews to determine this year's rankings. See who made the list.

Morning Consult Tech Top Reads

1) Jeff Bezos to keep 75% of couple's Amazon stock after finalizing divorce
Lauren Feiner, CNBC

2) Zuckerberg starts offense on Big Tech regulations
David McCabe, Axios

3) Google Employees Protest 'Anti-LGBTQ' Conservative's Appointment To AI Ethics Council
Jillian D'Onfro, Forbes

4) Elite U.S. school MIT cuts ties with Chinese tech firms Huawei, ZTE
Kanishka Singh, Reuters

5) CIA long relied exclusively on Amazon for its cloud computing. Now it is seeking multiple providers for a massive new contract.
Aaron Gregg, The Washington Post

6) Robo-callers rang Americans' phones 26 billion times last year. Now, Congress is taking aim.
Tony Romm, The Washington Post

7) Apple employee detained by U.S. customs agents after declining to unlock phone, laptop
Hamza Shaban, The Washington Post

8) How Regulation Threatens Not Just Tech Giants' Business but Their Popularity Too
Sam Sabin, Morning Consult

9) U.S. officials planning for a future in which Huawei has a major share of 5G global networks
Ellen Nakashima and Souad Mekhennet, The Washington Post

10) Amazon to offer broadband access from orbit with 3,236-satellite 'Project Kuiper' constellation
Alan Boyle, GeekWire

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